REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 10, 2004. Claims 1 to 17 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 10 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,970,218 (Mullin) in view of US 5,995,723 (Sperry). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns printing a document in a secure manner on a printer that may be remotely located in relation to the person wishing to print the document. To do so, identifying information for the document, such as the document's name, is replaced with new information such that the attributes of the document may not be ascertained by a third party. This new information is requested each time a secure print job is designated. The new information is then used to generate print job data that is transmitted to the printer. Upon receipt of the print job data, the printer interprets the print job data in order to print the document. In this way, a third person cannot recognize an attribute of the print job, thus ensuring secure printing.

Turning now to the claims, Claim 1 is directed to a printing control apparatus for performing printing by a printing device based upon a print job to which identification information is attached. The apparatus judges whether or not a secured print is designated and displays an input screen on which a document name corresponding to a print job is inputted, in response to a designation of the print job from an application, in a case where it is judged that the secured print is designated, and sets the document name

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inputted using the input screen to the print job so as to change the document name of the print job before print data of the print job is generated such that a third person can not recognize an attribute of the print job, and generates the print data interpretable by the printing device, using the set document name and transmits the generated print data to the printing device so as to execute the print job by the printing device, wherein the input screen is displayed and a document name is set at every time in which the secured print is designated.

According to the present invention as recited in Claim 1, an input screen for inputting a document name corresponding to a print job is displayed each time a secured print is designated in response to a designation of the print job from an application. The resultant input document name is set to the print job in order to change the document name of the print job each time a secured print job is designated. The setting of the document name to the input document name is done before print data for the print job is generated. This ensures that a third person cannot recognize an attribute of the print job by associating the document name in the print job data with the actual document name.

In contrast, Mullin discloses a network system having workstations and printers. At the workstation, a user enters a Personal Identification Number (PIN) associated with a print job, and the print job and the PIN associated with the print job are sent to a printer. (See Column 5, lines 16 to 19.) When the printer is ready to print the job, the printer sends a message to the workstation thus notifying the user. The user accesses the printer and manually inputs identification information to identify the user. The printer then compares the identification obtained from the workstation with the input identification information and, if they match, the selected print job is printed. Therefore, Mullin does not

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disclose or suggest setting a print job name by altering a document before print data for the print job is generated. Nor does Mullin disclose generating the print data of the print job device using the newly input document name.

Sperry discloses a client subsystem for a network printing system. The client compiles a document and uses a print assistant to alter attributes of the compiled document. As disclosed by Sperry, a print job is sent to a remote server or spooler. Once the print job is at the server, the attributes of the print job may be further changed using a user input screen. (See Fig. 6 of Sperry.)

Sperry does not disclose an input screen displayed each time a secure print job is requested. Instead, the print assistant of Sperry is opened when PDL is being generated for a document by a printer driver in order to alter attributes of the document. Therefore, the print assistant is not opened each time a secured print job is designated. In addition, the print assistant of Sperry is opened when PDL is being generated for a document by a printer driver only after the document is compiled. The attributes of the document can then be altered using the print assistant after the document is compiled. Furthermore, the print data of the document will not be affected if the document name is altered using Sperry's print assistant, because the attributes of the document can be altered after the document is compiled.

Therefore, Sperry is not seen to cure the deficiencies of Mullin, namely, both Mullin and Sperry fail to disclose the feature of inputting a document name each time a secure print job is requested. In addition, neither Sperry nor Mullin disclose that the input document is input before, and used during, generation of print data for the secure

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print job. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Independent Claims 3 and 9 are directed to a method and a computer-readable media, respectively, corresponding to the apparatus of Claim 1. Applicant submits that the foregoing discussion regarding Claim 1 applies equally to Claims 3 and 9. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 3 and 9 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Independent Claim 5 is directed to a system substantially corresponding to the apparatus of Claim 1. Applicant submits that the foregoing discussion regarding Claim 1 applies equally to Claim 5. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 5 is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Independent Claims 7 and 10 are directed to a method and a computer-readable medium, respectively, corresponding to the system of Claim 5. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 7 and 10 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. However, individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested as each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

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Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA

office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-

listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank L. Cire
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 42,419

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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